

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A fluidic diagnostic test strip for measuring an analyte concentration or property of a biological fluid sample, said test strip comprising:
a channel section providing a flow path from a sample port to a measurement area with a stop junction,
said stop junction provided by an abrupt change in a cross section from said measurement area to another channel section in communication with a bladder, and
a bypass channel provided in communication with said port and said bladder, said bypass channel providing a flow path for equalizing pressure across a sample meniscus formed at said stop junction,
wherein said stop junction and said bypass channel are adapted so that flow of said sample stops at said stop junction while said channel section is under reduced pressure from said bladder.

23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, having only one bladder.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, having a plurality of bladders.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, having only one measurement area.

26. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, having a plurality of measurement areas.

27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, having only one bypass channel.
28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, having a plurality of bladders and a plurality of bypass channels.
29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, having only one bladder, only one bypass channel and a plurality of measurement areas.
30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, comprising a plurality of layers, wherein said channel sections are provided in an intermediate layer between opposing layers.
31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30, wherein said stop junction comprises two passages substantially normal to a first surface of said intermediate layer, each passage having a first end in fluid communication with said channel sections and a second end in fluid communication with a recess in a second surface of said intermediate layer, said recess providing fluid communication between said passage second ends.
32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein said stop junction comprises an opening in at least one of said opposing layers, any such opening covered by a sealing layer.
33. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, adapted for measuring optical transmission in a measurement area.
34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 33, further comprising a reflective surface adjoining a measurement area.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, further comprising a composition that facilitates blood clotting, thereby providing a device for measuring prothrombin time.
36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the composition comprises thromboplastin.
37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, said further comprising a filter adjoining said port for filtering biological fluid introduced into said sample port.
38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 37, wherein said filter comprises an anisotropic membrane.
39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38 in which said membrane is polysulfone.
40. (Currently Amended) A fluidic diagnostic system, comprising a meter and a test strip ~~selected from those described in claims 1-39~~ according to claim 22.
41. (Previously Presented) An analyte detection method comprising:
providing a test strip and a meter adapted to interface with and read results from said test strip,
applying a sample to a sample port in said test strip,
detecting the presence of said sample in said port and releasing said actuator to produce suction from said bladder,
drawing said sample into a tests strip measurement area,
stopping said sample at a stop junction while said sample is under said suction,
drawing said sample through a bypass channel until pressure across said stop junction is equalized, and
taking at a measurement of analyte in said sample.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said test strip further comprises a filter adjacent said sample port.
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said detecting comprises detecting a non-transparent portion of said test strip.
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said test strip is substantially transparent at said at least one measurement area, thereby allowing measurement by analysis of transmitted light.
45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said sample is blood and said property measurement is prothrombin time.

STATUS OF CLAIMS AND AMENDMENTS

Claims 22-45 are pending. Claim 40 has been amended. No claims have been cancelled or added.

Claims 22-39 and 41-45 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-10; 10-21; 1-19 of US Patent Nos. 6,908,593; 6,521,182; and 6,261,519 respectively.

Claims 29-39 and 41-45 are also provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 22-36; 1-21; 1-21; and 1-21 of copending Application Nos. 10/330,790; 10/330,456; 10/121,425; and 10/121,636 respectively.

Claim 40 has been objected to as being in improper form.

Claims 22-37 and 41-45 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Naka et al (US Patents 6,001,307 or 6,180,062) or EP 0 8-3 288. As all of these references are related and claim priority from the same Japanese origin applications, they are treated as a single reference for purposes of this response.

Claims 38-39 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naka et al.